

MARIE B. MURRAY (MCMURRAY)

by Roberta Murray Larsen

Marie Sarah Barzee Murray (McMurray), born Easter Sunday April 12, 1903 in Heber City, Utah is the third daughter of George Hyrum and Emily Jane Carlile Barzee. She and Robert Blair McMurray were married June 3, 1925 in the Salt Lake Temple. Together they reared a nephew Glen McMurray and were blessed with two daughters of their own, a baby who died shortly after birth and Roberta who married Neal Larsen. There are three grandsons, three great grandsons and three great granddaughters.

Marie's father was Wasatch County surveyor. She accompanied him when she was a young girl to help him survey. She often said she would rather go in the horse and buggy to work with her father all day than stay home learning to cook and sew.

She has been a very active and busy woman with many accomplishments and endeavors. Shortly after marriage Marie and Bert operated a cafe and service station in Heber City. When times became hard they moved to California. Missing their families and friends, they returned home after one year.

Before she married, Marie attended the University of Utah to become a school teacher, teaching for over thirty two years. Teaching preschool under the W.P.A. she then taught at Wasatch, Duchesne, South Summit schools and was Vice President of the Murray Education Association during her seven years at Murray School District.

She is a certified librarian and received much pleasure working in libraries at Duchesne High School and Elementary, Arlington and Liberty Elementaries in Murray. She has been a librarian at Provo City Library driving to Provo when the weather permitted and staying in Provo in the winter. While she was in Provo she was an instructor as a member of the American Red Cross.

Active in the church all her life, she served on Wasatch Primary Stake Board, Wasatch Sunday School Stake Board, Organist, In-service leader and was a Relief Society teacher. While living in Duchesne she was Duchesne Stake Drama Director. One of her proudest accomplishments has been Duchesne Stake's production of "Promised Valley." She is a past Vice President of Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers and active in her local camp.

She was Wasatch County Recreation Leader teaching classes in arts and crafts. Exchanging ideas and crafts with Utah County, she taught classes in Spanish Fork and Springville. Her artistic talents appear in many of her oil paintings. She loves to play the piano and is gifted as she cannot read a note of music but listens, then plays and improvises on her own. She has had much enjoyment as a member of the Midway Garden Club.

Being a former member of Wasatch County Fair Board she worked in Arts Department over fifteen years. She made banners and signs with decorative letters and scroll work for many parades, floats and other functions in the county.

Retiring from teaching she was one of the first four women in Utah to become a certified ceramist. A member of Utah State Ceramic Association and Vice President of Central Utah Ceramic Association, she has had a shop and taught classes in her home the past sixteen years. She has beautiful porcelain lace dolls she adored making.